

CONVICTION OF DEBS

THAT WAS a sad scene for most Americans, when the jury announced the conviction of Eugene V. Debs, upon three counts, for violation of the espionage act. Rose Pastor Stokes, herself under sentence for similar violations, comforted the former socialist candidate for President of the United States.

Debs, like Mrs. Stokes, is a man of undoubted sincerity. His life has been a long devotion to his concept of the best interest of the workers. The same is true of Mrs. Stokes. With this statement all will agree, except perhaps persons radically of the opinion that the present social order is of all possible orders the best, and hence not susceptible to improvement.

The plight in which this man and woman find themselves grows out of their devotion to a single group of ideas, which they were unable to change, to meet the necessities of the times.

The pacifist ideal is Christian and commendable, in time of peace. It is right that men and women should strive to procure the end of war. The line between reason and fanaticism is not difficult to draw.

When the Wright Brothers tried to invent a flying machine, when they predicted the flying machine would be created, they were right. Had they gone about the country urging everybody to stop riding on trolley cars, because some day there would be flying machines, they would have been fanatics, instead of the sane and normal men they were.

As a general principle of action it is sound to advocate any improvement, but insane to advise others to do without the improvements they have, before the new one exists.

In the field of material things almost nobody has any difficulty, in following this rule. In the area of social change, which is almost equally mechanical, it is common for those who advocate a simple improvement, to seek to halt the whole course of life, until their change arrives.

Gene Debs and Mrs. Stokes advised men to disloyalty; gave to cowards and quitters a pretense by which they might avoid their duty to the country. Were such fanatics permitted, many Americans would be unnecessarily destroyed in France, the war would be lengthened, and the epoch of permanent peace would be delayed.

There ought to be, however, some process not criminal, and not like the process for the detention of the insane to reach cases such as Debs and Mrs. Stokes present.

They are not, in the moral sense, criminals. Neither are they insane.

They are rather to be regarded as the victims of a habit, as those are who lose the sense of proportion from drinking too much alcohol. They have so long believed, talked and acted in a certain way, as now to be unable to adapt themselves to a changed environment.

They cannot put their habits aside. Their ideas are of such proportions in their heads, that no room is left for the idea that society will not permit its sons to be unnecessarily destroyed, because amiable fanatics are out of touch with reality.

It might be better if there were no such thing as war. But there is war. America is fighting a war. None may stand in the way of victory.

THE KAISER'S SPEECH

THE SPEECH of the Kaiser to the workers of Krupp is more human than any utterance previously reported from him, and is longer than any previous statement of his that has reached America.

The speech is not free from that bombast which usually weakens the imperial utterances, but it has distinctly less of the quality of patronizing superiority, not so much of the style of a monarch to a black beetle.

The Kaiser abandons hope of a German victory. He knows he is whipped. But he wants peace without being willing to pay the price of peace. This is plain enough.

Facts peek through that the Kaiser would not wish to come within reach of Allied ears. With intense earnestness he implores the workers in Krupp's not to heed rumors, not to indulge in gossip of the war.

The German people are talking. There is a public opinion that passes from mouth to mouth. It predicts the fate that will overtake Germany. It whispers that the Americans have come. It describes their capacity as fighters. They are terrible men, there are millions of them. They are better soldiers than the Prussian Guard. Germany is lost. This is the kind of rumor the monarch desires to suppress. If it continues, he and his six uninjured sons are lost.

Remembering that martial law has been declared in Brandenburg province, 400 miles from the battle line, that the military authorities may the better suppress those who disseminate rumors of German defeat, how eloquent of panic is the Kaiser's fervid demand for silence among his people.

FEATHERWEIGHT LEADERSHIP

THE LEADERS of Russian extraction and Bolshevik principles, whose ignorance and light weight methods precipitated upon Bridgeport a costly, useless and unpatriotic strike, announce that they will form a "new American Labor party" based upon the principles of the British Labor party.

One of the chief principles of the British Labor party, is that it will keep its engagements, live up to its contracts and do what it says it will do, without winking.

The intelligent machinists and toolmakers of Bridgeport have had enough. The stupidity, self-seeking and entirely unskilled efforts of the men they trusted, cost the workers money, subjected them to censure by the officers of their International, and brought down upon their heads sharp censure from the President of their country.

No other group of men on strike in America has been so humiliated and so misdirected.

The attempt to form a new labor party, upon the basis of the present lost strike, is ridiculous and impossible beyond words. The men who handled the Bridgeport strike have not gained the reputation which will lead men to trust them with more leadership.

ANXIOUS FOR PEACE

THE AUSTRIAN proposals for a peace conference reflect a double motive. Austria undoubtedly is tired of war. Her people are rebellious; her food is scarce; death has knocked millions of times at her door.

Also Austria by making direct overtures for peace hopes to keep her people fighting a little longer.

The feeling of the Allies, expressed through many avenues of public opinion, seems to be that the war must for the present continue.

There is a feeling that war should be taken into German territory, that it should be directed against German cities, and

lay upon the German people some of the terrors they have inflicted upon others.

The sense of justice of the Allied nations demands the continuance of the war, until at least the Kaiser and his Junkers, have come to appreciate the pains and penalties that must come to those who seek world dominion by the sword and fail to attain it.

USE HIM RIGHT

THE AMERICANS having captured the German professor who conceived the idea of adding chlorine gas to the terrors of battle, ought to use him right; they ought to use him efficiently, so that he will do the most good. Let him continue his experiments with chlorine gas. It is not clearly known under what conditions chlorine is most effective; in dry, or humid air; how much gas makes the air fatal and how little leaves it uncomfortable, but not lethal.

Build a little tank, with chlorine attachments, and try it out on the professor. The knowledge accumulated might at a suitable time be sent to the Germans.

No nation in these times is justified in torturing prisoners, though the Germans have done it. It might be proper, however, to use prisoners to aid in carrying on a series of scientific investigations.

PERSHING GAINS FOUR MILES IN HIS DRIVE TOWARDS BIG FORTRESS OF METZ ON BORDER

One U. S. Division Gets 72 Guns—"Priests' Wood" Falls to Yanks—Only Best Huns as Sentinels—American Machines Successfully Bomb Roads and Bridges Between Corny and Arnaville—Five German Machines Shot Down—French Aviators Get Three Balloons—Kaiser's Troops Withdraw to Third Line.

London, Sept. 17.—The battle in Lorraine entered into its second phase yesterday, and thus began an entirely new chapter of the whole war. The great German fortress of Metz has been under continuous long-range shelling all day.

The American right wing swung forward four miles, capturing two important villages, Villers and Norroy, thus straightening out the front facing the German Lorraine border.

The Germans have withdrawn to their third line, northwest of St. Mihiel, known as the "Kriemhild" sector of the Hindenburg line, between Elain and Paguy-sur-Moselle.

A single American division captured 72 guns out of an artillery park of 90, near Jaulny. The same division took 150 gas projectiles.

The Forest-du-Petro (Priest's Wood) which was the scene of such sanguinary fighting between the French and Germans in 1915, is firmly in the possession of American troops. They are approaching Hill 327, which overlooks the Moselle as far as Paguy. Pershing's men are also close to Vandieres (on the Moselle, half way between Pont-a-Mousson and Paguy).

A captured German army order insists upon extreme vigilance in the Moselle sector and upon the selection of the very best troops as sentinels on that front, owing to the "violent and successful American surprise operations." The German order forbids the use of natives of Alsace-Lorraine in this sector.

American machines have been successfully bombing the roads and bridges between Corny and Arnaville. Hits have been scored on trains at Longuyon.

American planes shot down five German machines. French aviators brought down one German plane and three balloons.

On the Vosges front the Germans are nervously shelling the American army's back areas behind the St. Die railroad. For the first time in years they are using big calibre guns on this front.

The observer of a German two-seater shot down near St. Die carried instructions to photograph American back areas. The Vosges front in Alsace is 65 miles from the Lorraine front.

There is a sharp antagonism between the German and Austrian troops.

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troops. Austro-Hungarian soldiers who were captured in Les Eparges complained that the Germans failed to reinforce them and provide them with ammunition. German morale is lower than ever. Equipment is deteriorating. Even the officers' uniforms are "patched."

"We took prisoners in the course of a few forefield engagements," says the Berlin War Office report on the battle in Lorraine. "The enemy (American) line runs from Fresnes to St. Hilaire to Haumont to Rembertcourt to the Forest of Rappes. Between the Cotes-de-Lorraine, the Moselle there were artillery duels."

The statement adds that "enemy thrusts in Lorraine were repulsed. Regarding the other fronts the report says: 'Enemy attacks south of Havincourt failed. Between the Aisne and the Ailette the enemy extended his gains, taking a foothold south of Vally.'

Reports: "Twenty-two tons of bombs dropped last night on Paris." The German railway net at Metz-Sablon, four German aerodromes and the German cities of Mainz and Karlsruhe were successfully attacked by British bombing planes in 24 hours. During last night 350 bombs, totalling 16 1-2 tons in weight, were dropped. All British machines returned safely. Three German hangars were destroyed and German aerodromes machines on the ground were wrecked. In Karlsruhe 17 direct hits were scored.

Thirty-eight German airplanes were brought down by the British. Field Marshal Haig's report on aviation states, "The British lost 16 machines. Thirty tons of bombs were dropped on various German targets."

French and Serbian troops in Macedonia have advanced 15 kilometers (more than eight miles) on the Vardar line, capturing the first and second lines of enemy and taking more than 800 prisoners and ten guns. Announcement to this effect was made by Foreign Secretary Balfour at a dinner of Greek business men in London. The victory, Mr. Balfour added, was the prelude to greater successes.

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PEACE OFFER TO POPE

Baron Burian Sends Austrian Note to Apostolic Nuncio.

WANTS TEXT GIVEN TO HIS HOLINESS

Confidently Hopes He Will Sympathize and Give Moral Support.

Amsterdam, Sept. 17.—Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, on Sept. 14, according to a Vienna dispatch, sent a note to the Apostolic Nuncio, at Vienna, Monsignor di Bonzono, saying his government had decided to propose a peace conference and urging the Vatican to support it.

The note follows: "After four years of unheard of struggle and gigantic sacrifices the battle which has been devastating Europe has not been able to bring about a decision. Animated by a spirit of reconciliation which already has been expressed in its note of December 12, 1916, the Austro-Hungarian government has decided to approach all belligerent states and invite them to pave the way to a peace which will be honorable for all parties by a confidential and unbinding exchange of thoughts."

"Full of gratitude the Austro-Hungarian government hereby remembers that touching appeal which His Holiness, the Pope, sent to all belligerents last year, with the expectation that they seek an understanding and live again in brotherhood. Convinced that the Holy Father today also longs that suffering mankind soon will again enjoy the blessings of peace, we confidently hope he will sympathize with our note and support it with the moral influence which is recognized all over the world."

Animated by this thought, I request your Excellency to submit the enclosed text of the note to His Holiness."

Washington, Sept. 17.—The answer of the United States to the peace proposal advanced by Austria-Hungary—an unconditional rejection—was before the world today. The reply issued by Secretary Lansing last night upon authorization by President Wilson almost immediately upon delivery of the Austrian communication by the Swedish minister speaks for all the nations arrayed against the Central Powers in the chief of officials today.

The text of the answer constitutes one of the shortest important notes recorded in American diplomatic history. After stating that "The United States feels that there is only one reply which it can make to the suggestion of the Imperial Austrian-Hungarian government," the President sets forth the position of the U. S. government in a single sentence, as follows: "It has repeatedly and with entire candor stated the terms upon which the United States would consider peace and can and will entertain no proposal for peace upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain."

With the first of the expected new series of peace bids of the Central Powers having met a flat rejection the rest of the powers are to be heard from.

In the communication issued by the Austrian Foreign Office in connection with the note to the belligerents and neutrals regarding the proposed peace conference, it was announced that the step taken by Austria had been brought to the knowledge of the Holy See in a special note. It was added that an appeal had been made to the Pope's interest in peace.

IMPERSONATED NAVAL OFFICER IS THE CHARGE

New Haven, Sept. 17.—A man arrested on a railroad train here yesterday by Chief of Police McMahon of the N. Y. N. H. & H. R. R. police and turned over by him to the local police was today held by the Department of Justice officers on the charge of impersonation of a naval officer.

When arrested he pleaded that his pocket had been picked. He wore the uniform of a lieutenant-commander. The detective bureau later obtained from the man the names of Charles F. Dilliver, Thomas J. Ross, Dr. Lawrence Cusick and Dr. William Young as those under which he claimed he had gone at various times between here and Boston.

The federal officers took the man as their prisoner for the reason that he was in naval uniform and that he was not an officer but merely had been employed around docks. The man will be arraigned before a commissioner under the name of Dilliver.

SENATE APPROVES TAXES ON BONDS

Washington, Sept. 17.—Provision of the war revenue bill levying federal income taxes on future issues of state, county and municipal bonds were approved today by the House a motion for their elimination being defeated, 132 to 61.

WAR DEPT. WANTS \$7,347,000,000

Washington, Sept. 17.—Congress has asked the War Department today to provide \$7,347,000,000 in addition to previous estimates for carrying out the enlarged American military program for the coming year.

CINCINNATI POLICE STRIKE ENDS

Cincinnati, Sept. 17.—The police strike was declared off shortly after the noon hour yesterday. The men went back to work at 3 p. m. yesterday when the second shift reported for duty. The men came back without obtaining any guarantees from the city officials relative to their demands.

BOMBARD AMERICANS AT PONT-A-MOUSSON WITH MUSTARD GAS

Yesterday Quiet Day Along This Sector—American Patrol Makes Raid Getting Non-Commissioned Officers—Aviators Bomb Metz.

With the American Army in Lorraine, Monday, Sept. 16, 7 p. m.—(By the Associated Press)—Today was the quietest day of this front since the beginning of last Tuesday. There was little infantry action and only moderate artillery action.

Pont-a-Mousson and Dieulouard, four miles to the south, were shelled by the enemy who mixed in a few mustard gas projectiles.

With the American Forces in Lorraine, Sept. 17.—By the Associated Press 3 P. M.—An American patrol in a raid made early today in the general region of Haumont, northwest of Thiaucourt, captured five non-commissioned officers and killed seven other non-commissioned officers.

American Headquarters, in Lorraine, Monday, Sept. 16.—During the fighting in the St. Mihiel salient it has been noted that the enemy soldiers have shown a disposition to surrender. There has been an extraordinarily large proportion of non-commissioned officers among the enemy troops taken captive.

Prisoners taken report that the entire artillery of the First-French German Division was captured in the American operation on the front. The division that was used to bear the brunt of the attack in the salient east of St. Mihiel, it appears, was the 35th Austrian division. It was ordered to maintain a holding action until all the German troops were withdrawn. In consequence of this it suffered very heavy losses, especially in prisoners.

American and Allied aviators carried out extensive bombing raids on Bayonville, Frezenoy and LeSablon and in the direction of Metz this afternoon. Fire was observed at Sarlouis. One of the American planes shot down a German balloon near Bony.

Lieut. Duckstein, observer, and Lieut. Richardson, pilot, were attacked by an enemy machine bearing French markings. They were forced to land inside the American lines, but were unhurt. An American balloon was shot down yesterday but the observers escaped by parachute.

DOZEN HUN AIRPLANES SHOT DOWN BY FRENCH

War Office Statement Gives Details of Raids Over Paris Sunday Night—Six Persons Killed By Falling Bombs.

Paris, Monday, Sept. 16.—In aerial fighting Sunday French aviators destroyed twelve German airplanes and set on fire sixteen captive balloons, says tonight's war office statement on aviation activities.

Sunday night bombing squadrons dropped 46 tons of bombs on military targets behind the German lines from Laon to Metz. The text follows: "On Sept. 15, our aviators were extremely active and obtained the noticeable results. Despite marked attempts to protect the balloons, we set on fire sixteen captive balloons. Numerous aerial combats were engaged in, in the course of which we destroyed twelve German machines. Our aviators carried out bombardments on the night of Sept. 15-16 against the lines, stations and cantonments behind the enemy front. The stations at Laon, Amagne, Marie, Longuyon, Dommary, Barcourt and Conflans were shelled heavily with projectiles. Large explosion were observed especially at Marie and Longuyon. A total of 46 tons of bombs were dropped."

Six persons were killed and fifteen injured in Sunday night's air raid over Paris, according to the lists given by the newspapers today.

Two German airplanes which had participated in the raid in the region of Paris Sunday night were shot down by anti-aircraft guns. They fell in the forest of Compiègne.

LODGE APPROVES OF PRESIDENT'S REFUSAL

Massachusetts Senator Says Curt Rejection of Austrian Peace Plan Is Right and Wise—America's Position Plain.

Washington, Sept. 17.—Unqualified approval of the President's refusal for secret and non-binding peace discussions was given in the Senate today by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts.

Senator Lodge said the President's prompt and curt refusal was right and wise, and that he was sure it would receive universal approval.

America's position is becoming so plain, the senator declared, that even the Central Powers will soon begin to understand it. Germany, "having brought unnumbered woes upon an innocent world and appealed to the just of conquest. He concluded: "She shall not now resort to talk and bargain for a decision. We mean to put her in physical bonds."

He said the President's action would put an end to loose and idle talk.

HUNDREDS ARE PUT TO DEATH

Stockholm, Sept. 17.—Wholesale executions are increasing in Petrograd, according to private telegrams received here by the way of Helsinki. During the past week, 312 persons were executed and more than 400 others are doomed.

All persons of the rank of councilors of state have been imprisoned regardless of their political views.

MUST GET PERMIT TO LEAVE COUNTRY

Subjects of foreign countries desiring to leave the United States permanently or temporarily, are warned to obtain a permit to do so from the permit agents from the different localities. If the person is of military age, he will also have to get a release from his local draft board.

If one cannot reach the permit agent in his locality, he can obtain his information by writing to the Foreign Permit office, Division of Passport Control, Department of State, Washington, D. C. Regulations require that the person asking for a permit should under no circumstances go to Washington, D. C., to obtain one.

Persons who are to leave the country should not leave their place of residence for the place of embarkment until their permits have been received by them.

HANG FIVE NEGROES
San Antonio, Tex., Sept. 17.—Five negroes whose sentences to death were pronounced by court martial which tried them for participation in the Houston riot, August 1917, and whose sentences were approved by President Wilson were hanged at Fort Sam Houston at dawn today.

WAR WITH BULGARIA!
Washington, Sept. 17.—If Bulgarians actually are fighting in the west, it will mean recognition of a state of war between the United States and Bulgaria.

URGENT EARLY PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT
Washington, Sept. 17.—A group of Democratic women called on President Wilson yesterday and asked him to use his influence to bring about a vote in the Senate on the federal suffrage amendment before the November elections. According to Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham of Texas, the President's response was: "I am, as I think you know, heartily in sympathy with you. I have endeavored to assist you in every way in my power. I shall continue to do so. I will do all I can to urge the passage of this amendment by an early vote."